

ENGLISH TODAY

LA MEJOR FORMA DE PONER AL DÍA TU INGLÉS

#91

Vampires

Why love bites are sexy

Well hung men

The hit TV series 'Hung' that has everyone talking

>>Madeira>>Robbie Williams>>St Patrick's Day>>David Janer>>

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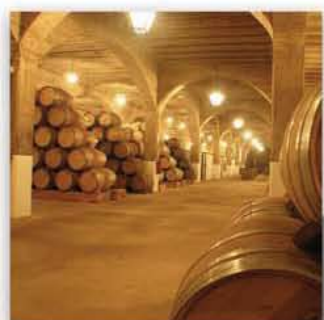
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EDITORIAL

Years ago vampire films tended to have a decidedly tacky¹ look to them. Now with the worldwide² phenomenon that is *Twilight* and its sequels, and series such as 'True Blood' and 'The Vampire Diaries', bloodsucking³ has never been so sexy.

From blood red to vibrant green we celebrate St. Patrick's Day with some Irish slang⁴, without forgetting those of you with a sweet tooth⁵ who like to celebrate Easter with a chocolate egg.

On the comeback trail⁶ is Robbie Williams. After a period in the creative and commercial wilderness⁷ spent chasing UFOs he's in the charts again with 'Radio Killed the Video Star'. But the "Will he? Won't he?" rejoin⁸ Take That reports continue.

It's finally happened! A TV series about a man with a big dick! 'Hung'⁹ premiered to good ratings¹⁰ and acclaim on HBO last year and this story of a history teacher using his impressive member¹¹ to moonlight¹² as a male prostitute to make ends meet¹³ is now on Spanish screens.

So whether it's blood, chocolate or a large penis, *English Today* as usual has something for you to get your teeth into...

Tony Keirle
Pedagogical Coordinator

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 tacky hortera | 9 hung bien dotado |
| 2 worldwide mundial | 10 ratings índice de audiencia |
| 3 bloodsucking chupasangre | 11 impressive member pene grande |
| 4 slang argot | 12 to moonlight tener un segundo empleo |
| 5 to have a sweet tooth ser goloso | 13 to make ends meet llegar a fin de mes |
| 6 on the comeback trail volver a tener una buena racha | |
| 7 wilderness páramo | |
| 8 to rejoin reincorporarse | |

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level 1 ● level_2 ●● level_3 ●●●

Celebrity

Leonardo DiCaprio to narrate¹ new IMAX 3D Film

Warner Bros. Pictures Inc. and IMAX Corporation have announced that Leonardo DiCaprio will narrate the *Hubble 3D* film. The latest IMAX 3D film from the award-winning² team behind *Space Station 3D* and other successful³ IMAX space films, led⁴ by producer/director Toni Myers, is scheduled for release to IMAX theatres this month. *Hubble 3D* will combine awe-inspiring⁵ IMAX 3D footage⁶ shot in space with breathtaking⁷, never-before-seen 3D flights through Hubble imagery from the Orion Nebula to the far reaches⁸ of the cosmos. The film is the fourth IMAX 3D co-production between the two companies.

"I'm thrilled⁹ that Leonardo will be guiding¹⁰ our audiences on this incredible journey through the cosmos," said producer/director Toni Myers. "It's a tremendous honour to have him as part of the *Hubble 3D* team. His extraordinary gift of connecting with audiences is the perfect fit for the immersive experience of Hubble's story." Leonardo DiCaprio most recently earned a Golden Globe Award nomination for his leading role in Sam Mendes' acclaimed drama *Revolutionary Road*. His honours include three Oscar nominations, the first in 1994 for his work in *What's Eating Gilbert Grape*, followed by *The Aviator*, in 2005, for which he won the Golden Globe, and *Blood Diamond*, in 2007. DiCaprio's additional credits include the Oscar-winning films *Titanic* and *The Departed*. He will soon star in Martin Scorsese's *Shutter Island* and in Christopher Nolan's *Inception*, both set for a 2010 release.



Health



Virtual liver¹¹ helps liver cancer patients

New software will help patients with liver cancer or cirrhosis of the liver, as it will help doctors determine if they are fit¹² to undergo surgery. Researchers from France, Germany and Norway have developed a 3D virtual liver that enables¹³ doctors to get a clearer picture of the shape of patients' livers and also to see where blood vessels run¹⁴. "Thanks to the 3D modelling, the future of liver surgery has gained more precision through accurate definition of the liver's blood vessels," commented Professor Luc Soler of the *Institut de Recherche contre les Cancers de l'Appareil Digestif* (IRCAD) in France. Each year cirrhosis of the liver and liver cancer kill around 90,000 people in Europe. Surgery is a major tool¹⁵ in the treatment of these diseases¹⁶; diseased tissue is removed and the patient is left with enough healthy liver tissue to survive. Currently, doctors use medical images of the liver to decide which patients have enough healthy liver tissue to undergo surgery. However, interpreting these two-dimensional (2D) images is difficult – the new 3D model will make the task much easier.

EcoSnoopers¹⁷ help the planet

A new social networking app for environmentalists lets you post environmental concerns as you see them, find green businesses in your area, and in general save the world - one picture at a time. Though the power of a new iPhone and iPod Touch application called EcoSnoop you can report un-environmentally friendly behaviour¹⁸. EcoSnoop blends¹⁹ environmental activism and responsibility with social networking, and backs it up²⁰ with the power of the iPhone's easy access camera and GPS tagging capabilities to create a new tool that is easy to use. For example, if you see an office building has left all its lights on, snap²¹ a quick photo with your iPhone, and input²² as much information as you can. Through GPS, the case will be tagged so that other EcoSnoop environmentalists in the area can see it on their local maps as well, providing²³ comments and suggestions²⁴ about what action to take.

EcoSnoop blends environmental activism and responsibility with social networking



© Jacob Montrasio

Glossary

1 to narrate narrar
2 award-winning premiado
3 successful afortunado
4 led dirigido
5 awe-inspiring impresionante
6 footage imágenes
7 breathtaking impresionante
8 far reaches confines / lugar muy lejano

9 thrilled emocionado
10 to guide dirigir
11 liver hígado
12 fit saludable
13 to enable posibilitar
14 to run fluir
15 tool herramienta
16 disease enfermedad
17 to snoop curiosear

18 behaviour comportamiento
19 to blend mezclar
20 to back something up respaldar
21 to snap (a photo) hacer un foto
22 to input entrar
23 to provide proveer
24 suggestions sugerencias

fashion and shopping

Bob Geldof, Jimmy Wales and Justin Rose: New faces of Maurice Lacroix watch



Maurice Lacroix has launched a new watch with a new campaign: "Follow Your Convictions", which uses the faces of Sir Bob Geldof, Jimmy Wales and Justin Rose. These three famous ambassadors were chosen because they have never veered² from their beliefs³ in their journey⁴ to success. "You can't just say you're authentic or that you have substance," explains Sir Bob. "That won't wash⁵. You've got to prove it. You've got to be it. In everything you do." And he should know. In his lifetime Sir Bob has been a music journalist, had a succession of international hit records with his punk band The Boomtown Rats, organized arguably⁶ the most successful global fundrai-

sing events of all time in LiveAid and Live8, created his own TV production company and is an accomplished businessman. "Let nobody tell you who you are," he says. Justin Rose is an extraordinary golfer who defied⁷ all odds by going pro at just 17 years old. Jimmy Wales, is the internet entrepreneur who founded⁸ Wikipedia. Today, *Wikipedia.org* is one of the five most visited internet sites. Lacroix CEO Martin Bachmann concludes: "Our ambassadors achieved greatness⁹ without the need to compromise their principles. We at Maurice Lacroix share this incredible passion, as our innovative and pioneering watches prove, time after time."

beauty

The Body Shop's Samoan Coconut Oil

Ethical beauty retailer¹⁰ The Body Shop has expanded its unique Community Trade programme to include, for the first time, coconut growers¹¹ from the Pacific Islands of Samoa. A Samoan cooperative is now supplying¹² The Body Shop with organic, cold-pressed, virgin coconut oil for use in its new and improved Coconut Bath & Body range.

Thanks to two centuries of experience, the Samoans have extensive knowledge and expertise in extracting pure, natural, unadulterated coconut oil of the highest quality. So you can indulge with the deliciously fragranced, moisturizing Coconut bodycare products with a clear conscience, knowing your skin is not only benefiting from high-quality ingredients but your purchase is also helping to improve the lives of others. And it smells great!



relationships

Keeping office love alive¹³



A report on *forbes.com* says that 40 percent of workers have dated¹⁴ a colleague at some point in their careers, and 30 percent say they married the person they dated at work. "The office has turned into the village¹⁵ of the 21st century. Where else do you spend 12 hours a day?" says author Helaine Olen. As many as 72 percent of all those questioned said they went public¹⁶ with their relationship, compared with just 46 percent five years ago. Needless to say that you have to be aware that you may lose your job and that if the romance breaks up¹⁷, it could be very hard to work together.

Blueberry juice for good memory

Researchers from the US and Canada have discovered evidence that blueberry juice improves memory in older adults. The findings¹⁸ were published in the *Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry*. A study was carried out¹⁹ on a group of 70-year olds showing early signs of memory loss. A few glasses of juice per day appeared to have a significant effect on memory, and scientists want to continue with more experiments.

diet

MGs from China



China's biggest car manufacturer, SAIC, is going to sell its UK-made MG cars in Europe by the end of the year. The plan is to revive the British vintage²⁰ brand²¹ that it took over²² three years ago. SAIC, is a General Motors Co. and Volkswagen AG partner in China. It became the owner of an MG Rover's factory in central England in 2007, after a merger²³ with its much smaller peer²⁴, Nanjing Automobile Group. It has already launched its first self-developed car, the Roewe 750, followed by the Roewe 550 and MG 6 models, popular with young, elite professionals in China. The company now wants to make a name²⁵ for itself globally.

cars

Glossary

1 to choose elegir
2 to veer virar
3 believe creencias
4 journey viaje
5 won't wash cuando algo no tiene credibilidad
6 arguably posiblemente
7 to defy desafiar
8 to found fundar

9 greatness grandeza
10 retailer minorista
11 growers productores
12 to supply suministrar
13 alive vivo
14 to date salir con alguien
15 village pueblo
16 to go public declarar
17 to break up terminar una relación

18 findings resultados
19 to carry out llevar a cabo
20 vintage clásico/añejo
21 brand marca
22 to take over adquirir
23 merger fusión
24 peer igual
25 make a name ser conocido

Love bites!

Before they scared us. Now they drive us crazy². Thanks to the push of the multimillion *Twilight* franchise, vampires have been converted into the new James Dean – the ultimate pin-ups. What is it that they offer us that a mere mortal can't provide?

By Rafael Bladé



Where are those people who predicted that 2009 would be the year of the wolf? *Wolverine* (Hugh Jackman) came and went without making much noise. *The Werewolf* (Benicio del Toro) has continued to postpone its release date.

The opinion pages of the biggest newspapers have echoed⁹ the story of the couple waiting for a black future. And a large part of the blame⁴ goes to Edward Cullen, the vampire created by Stephanie Meyer in the bestselling novel trilogy, *Twilight*. Edward is vegetarian (he only drinks animal blood, not human) and he's been 16 years old since 1918. He appears to be tormented, he plays the piano and he's not afraid to talk about his emotions. He says that Bella, his lover, is his "own special brand of heroine (the drug), and despite this addiction he reigns in⁹ his monstrous side (so he doesn't bite⁶ her) and his hormones (so he doesn't 'deflower' her.) Editorial in the *New York Times* noted that while girls are being educated romantically with novels by Meyer, the boys look at pornography online. "A generation of men who hope to find a porn star will encounter a generation of women who hope that their love will enter silently by the balcony to sleep closely together," says the writer. It seems, perhaps, that there's some disparity between expectations. Although, it must be said that apart from specialized contact pages, such as *VampirePersonals.com*, nobody has ever seen a vampire. Not even in Forks, the small village in Washington State where *Twilight* takes place, and where, the number of tourists has tripled over the past year – most of them female.

THEY DON'T BITE LIKE BEFORE

With more than 40 million books sold globally since 2004, and more than one and a half million of these in Spain, Meyer has converted monsters into ideal partners. To gain this status, so that girls feel safe with them, they've had to find a distinct human element and stop being so intimidating. As there isn't a true vampire, the fantasy centres on Robert Pattinson, the 23-year-old British actor who plays Edward in the cinema. But all the security he has is not enough. He was run over⁷ by a taxi, luckily⁸ without consequences,



True Blood

To maintain their status as sex symbols, the new generation of vampires have changed their diet: they drink animal or synthetic blood, not human.

when trying to escape a group of crazed⁹ girls in the streets of New York. Now, for contractual reasons he is no longer allowed to appear in public! It is all very traumatic - in the premiere of *Twilight*, in the middle of the film, he had to leave the cinema as he was having a panic attack. OME!

(This is the acronym for "Oh My Edward!" for those not yet initiated in twilighter chat.)

MUSCLES ARE NOT IMPORTANT

Vampires have lived through many booms. But never through anything like the frenzy¹⁰ that has awoken in the

public who know best how to create a phenomenon: teenagers. They are the nucleus, but the meteorite has a long tail¹¹ that doesn't stop growing. The numbers count. *New Moon*, Meyer's second novel, that reached the big screen last November, took \$142.8 million in its first weekend, more than double the first movie, *Twilight*, in the same period the year before. This figure makes the sequel the third film in history to make so much money in its first three days, after *The Dark Knight* (\$158.4 million) and *Spiderman 3* (\$151 million). Without doubt the film occupies the top spot in terms of first-day revenue and advance ticket sales. In Spain it made €10 million in its first few days (from Wednesday to Sunday), which makes it one of the most successful openings¹² of all time. In *New Moon* Edward faces the supreme sacrifice: leave Bella because, while they continue together, she will be coveted¹³ by non-vegetarian vampires. She, in her sadness, leans on¹⁴ Jacob, who is besotted¹⁵ by her. In the first film, Jacob, an Indian from the Quileute tribe, gained almost 14 kilos of muscle in order to embody the power of a werewolf¹⁶. Despite¹⁷ his efforts in the gym, the public still prefer the languid Edward. A questionnaire conducted with those who bought advance tickets showed that 83 percent declared Edward as their favourite. Where are those people who predicted that 2009 would be the year of the wolf? *Wolverine* (Hugh Jackman) came and went without making much noise. *The Werewolf* (Benicio del Toro) has continued to postpone its release date.

CELESTIAL MUSIC

New Moon's journey has been a success. Every bit of information and photograph has caused a reaction in the blogosphere. It's ironic that the internet has been the key to this success, when in Meyer's books it's almost nonexistent: Bella uses a prehistoric, limping¹⁸ modem. The latest example of online delirium occurred when the official *StephanieMeyer.com* webpage



The Vampire Diaries

Like all great phenomena, *Twilight* came from nowhere. Fifteen editors rejected the first novel. All the big studios in Hollywood turned their backs on the movie adaptation.

Glossary

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 love bites bocados de amor | 10 frenzy frenesí |
| 2 to drive someone crazy volver loco a alguien | 11 tail cola |
| 3 to echo hacer eco | 12 openings (movie) estrenos (película) |
| 4 to blame culpar | 13 coveted codiciada |
| 5 to reign in reinar en | 14 to lean on (someone) apoyarse en alguien |
| 6 to bite morder | 15 besotted embrutecido |
| 7 run over atropellar | 16 werewolf hombre lobo |
| 8 luckily por suerte | 17 despite a pesar de |
| 9 crazed enloquecidas | 18 to limp cojear |

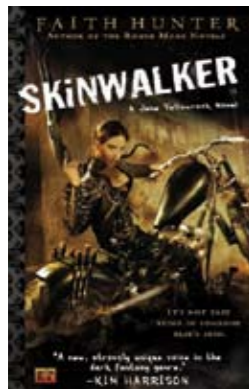
Popular vampire fiction

Vampire literature has a long history and it first appeared in the eighteenth century in the form of poetry, before appearing in gothic fiction with the publication of Polidori's *The Vampyre* (1819), which was inspired by the life and legend of Lord Byron.

The public's love of vampires has come from the many books about these creatures of the night. Now you can find even more books telling vampire stories. Listed here are some of the best-selling vampire novels of 2009, along with recent releases. All are available to buy through amazon.co.uk:

- *Angels' Blood* by Nalini Singh
- *Soulless* by Gail Carriger

- *Kiss of the Demon King* by Kresley Cole
- *Skinwalker* by Faith Hunter
- *The Strain* by Guillermo Del Toro and Chuck Hogan
- *The Cold Kiss of Death* by Suzanne McLeod
- *Lover Avenged* by J.R. Ward
- *Dead and Gone* by Charlaine Harris
- *Jane Bites Back* by Michael Thomas Ford
- *Shades of Midnight* (Midnight Breed) by Lara Adrian
- *Hallowed Circle* by Linda Robertson
- *Heart of Darkness* by Gena Showalter, Maggie Shayne and Susan Krinard



rejected²⁰ the first novel. All the big studios in Hollywood turned their backs on the movie adaptation. But how has a 19th-century love story been so successful with a generation who love the hedonism of series such as 'Gossip Girl'? Meyer is a Mormon, and she based the script on what Mormons believe in: premarital chastity. This has definitely captured the attention of the pubescent female audience, as has the fact that Edward, who despite his love for Bella, wants her to maintain her virtues. And the novels are full of juicy²¹ descriptions of Edward's physique. *Time* magazine said the subtext was like "erotica of abstinence".

OPTIONAL ERECTIONS

As the cynics²² like to remind us, some of them as famous as Stephen King, Meyer did not invent the genre of 'girl meets vampire'. But she did bring it to the forefront and take it out of the coffin²³ of its predecessors. Between 1991 and 1992, for example, L.J. Smith published the trilogy *The Vampire Diaries*, a love triangle between a mortal, Elena, and two vampire brothers, Stefan, (the good guy who doesn't drink human blood), and Damon (who does). Thanks to the success of *Twilight*, these novels have begun to sell more copies, they have been published in Spain (with the title *Crónicas vampíricas*, *Destino*) and have encouraged the author to continue the saga. *The Vampire Diaries* has been released as a TV series in the US (it will arrive in Spain on the TNT channel). Produced by Kevin Williamson of *Scream*, it has more moments of terror than *Twilight*, but it couldn't avoid mentioning it: in one episode, Damon is reading *Eclipse* and he becomes furious. "What on earth²⁴ is so special about Bella? Edward is her lapdog²⁵! Oh How I miss Anne Rice!" Rice is the matriarch of the vampire genre, although more gothic and bloody²⁶ than we see these days. Her main character too, for sure, also abstained from sex, but in this case because he was impotent, which



Split

The latest example of online delirium occurred when the official StephanieMeyer.com webpage published the film's soundtrack.

is a disadvantage of being dead and suffering a lack of blood supply. The philosophy of the vampire follows the taste²⁷ of the creator. Look at another story of love that triumphs, the story of the telepathic waitress Sookie and the vampire Bill, protagonists in the series 'True Blood' (*Sangre fresca*), the most-watched on HBO since 'The Sopranos'. She feels attracted to him, because he's dead, she cannot read his thoughts. However, his genital area is definitely not dead judging by²⁸ the explicit sex scenes that appear in most episodes. Although 'True Blood' appeals to an older audience that *Twilight*, Bill

also meets the requirements to be a fanged²⁹ sex symbol: his primary food is synthetic blood, manufactured in Japan, although Sookie lets him taste her blood from time to time³⁰. Living a full transfusion is Charlaine Harris, the author of the *True Blood* novels (published by Suma). In the latest *New York Times* bestseller list, she had two hard cover rankings and eight pocket books. A milestone³¹ for volumes published eight years ago. And it's the books that are at the epicentre of the current obsession with vampires. The love of reading hasn't died, nor has the love of the dead.

LITERARY SAGAS THAT BITE Cassandra Palmer

Like her mythological name indicates, Cassandra can predict the future, an ability that her protector, a dark Romanian vampire prince, takes advantage of. (By Karen Chance. La Factoría de Ideas).

Medianoche

Blanca arrives at boarding school and everyone is gorgeous and elegant. Some are vampires, but other are not.

Would you be the one to stare? (By Claudia Gray. Montena).

La Casa de la Noche

A small percentage of humans mutate into vampires when they reach puberty. Zoey is one of them, and she has to go to school to train how to be an adult vampire. (By P. C. Cast. La Factoría de Ideas). ●

Glossary

- 19 **soundtrack** banda sonora
- 20 **to reject** rechazar
- 21 **juicy** jugosas
- 22 **cynics** detractores
- 23 **coffin** ataúd
- 24 **what on earth** qué diantres
- 25 **lapdog** perro faldero
- 26 **bloody** sanguinario
- 27 **the taste** a gusto
- 28 **judging by** a juzgar por
- 29 **fanged** colmillos
- 30 **from time to time** de vez en cuando
- 31 **milestone** hito

published the film's soundtrack¹⁹. It was received like a press conference of Elvis resurrected. The fever generated reached such heights that the CD was released two days earlier than anticipated. Record companies are already releasing music scores in the hope of getting their groups included in the soundtrack of *Eclipse*, the third

movie, which will be released in June this year. The 'romantic vampire' ride doesn't stop, if anything it's going global: even Israel has its own vampire series, called 'Split' (which refers to the double condition of being half human and half vampire). Like all great phenomena, *Twilight* came from nowhere. Fifteen editors

Madeira:

Islands beyond the Mediterranean

We pay a visit to this Portuguese archipelago, situated 1,000 kilometres from Lisbon and world famous for its magnificent wines. The archipelago consists of the islands of Porto Santo and Madeira, and we invite you to discover one of the most spectacular tourist destinations in Europe.

By Marc Vargas

The war in Iraq detracted¹ fame away from Madeira in favour of the Azores as the archipelago most connected with Portugal, but thanks to the spectacular landscapes, natural beauty and friendliness² of its inhabitants, Madeira's charm³ is still intact. Madeira is famous for its beaches and its magnificent climate, but above all, its constant wine production. There are more than 30 different types, of which the most famous varieties include Sercial (dry), Verdelho (semi-dry), Boal (semi-sweet) and Malvasí (sweet). Admired by kings, princes, generals and explorers, Madeiran wine is, without doubt, the best ambassador of the archipelago. It has even been praised⁴ by Shakespeare in some of his works⁵.

Madeiran wine is, without doubt, the best ambassador of the archipelago.

Every year more than four million litres are exported and the wine company in Funchal is a place well worth⁶ visiting. You'll find it in the oldest streets of the capital inside an historic building, which was once the Convent of San Francisco, where 18th-century manuscripts tell the history of the area.

FUNCHAL, THE CAPITAL

Funchal, situated in the south of the island, is the administrative, commercial and cultural centre of the archi-



Madeira is famous for its beaches and its magnificent climate, but above all, its constant wine production.

pelago and it is here that the oldest quarter coexists side by side⁷ with the more modern and lively⁸ areas. Aside from⁹ the wine company, Funchal has three must-see¹⁰ museums: The Museum of Sacred Art, situated in the old 16th century Episcopal Palace (in the Praça municipality), which houses an important collection of 15th century Flemish art; the Municipal Museum of Natural History, with a remarkable¹¹ collection of wildlife and an aquarium, and finally, the Museum of Five Crosses, with many pieces from East India. Next to the History Museum are St. Peter's church and the Santa Clara convent, with an impressive display of Portuguese tiles¹², which are famous all over the world. Don't forget to take a walk along the promenade and visit the Funchal Marina, an important commercial and sporting port full of sleek yachts and catamarans from across the globe.

Glossary

- 1 to detract** desmerecer
- 2 friendliness** amabilidad
- 3 charm** encanto
- 4 to praise** alabar
- 5 works** obras
- 6 well worth** vale la pena
- 7 side by side** juntos
- 8 lively** animado
- 9 aside from** de obligatoria visita
- 10 must-see** hay que ver
- 11 remarkable** notable
- 12 tiles** azulejos

Madeira is an island full of tradition and customs, and the Lavradores market in the Velha zone is one symbol of its identity and another essential place to visit.

LEAVING THE CAPITAL

The best way to see the island is to rent a car, but you should drive with caution¹³ as the roads can become chaotic. It's best to begin excursions early in the morning in order to avoid¹⁴ lots of traffic.

The first interesting spot outside of Funchal is Câmara de Lobos, to the west of the capital. This is an authentic fishing village that has preserved its colourful boats and quaint¹⁵ white houses with their green shutters¹⁶.

For a unique experience, about 10 kilometres from Câmara de Lobos is Cabo Girão, which, at 580 metres is the highest cliff in Europe and it offers spectacular views. Continuing west, you will find the beautiful village of Ribeira Brava, if you continue towards¹⁷ Ponta do Sol and Calheta, you'll discover two beaches ideal for taking a dip¹⁸. In the far northwest of the island is one of the

Cabo Girão, at 580 metres, is the highest cliff in Europe and it offers spectacular views.

attractions of Madeira, the calm natural pools¹⁹ in Porto Moniz, formed by volcanic rock. And on the north coast, there's also an especially interesting place to visit: Santana, one of the most-visited tourist spots on the island, with its typical thatched-roof²⁰ huts and the Queimadas natural park, surrounded by the Laurissilva forest²¹, that offers a million and one excursions for lovers of hiking²². If you are a hiking fan, take note of these stunning locations: Caldeirão Verde, Caldeirão do Inferno and Rancho Madeirense.



About 50 kilometres from Madeira is the island of Porto Santo, an ideal place for those who want to relax.

PORTO SANTO ISLAND

About 50 kilometres from Madeira is the island of Porto Santo, an ideal place for those who want to relax. To get there you can go by boat or plane. The island is bathed by turquoise waters and is famed for its long, calm and uninterrupted beaches along the south coast. In one day

you can see the whole island, and the population of Vila Baleira, a beautiful old settlement²³ where there's a museum that claims²⁴ to have once been a house where Christopher Columbus lived. Porto Santo possesses a primitive beauty – reminiscent of deserted islands that make us think of Robinson Crusoe. ●

Glossary

- 13 caution** precaución
- 14 avoid** eludir
- 15 quaint** pintoresco
- 16 shutters** persianas
- 17 towards** hacia
- 18 take a dip** tomar un baño
- 19 pools** piscinas
- 20 thatched roof** tejado de paja
- 21 forest** bosque
- 22 hiking** senderismo
- 23 settlement** poblado
- 24 to claim** decir



Wine from Madeira

Wine from Madeira is fortified and can be dry – which can be drunk on its own as an aperitif, or sweet – and commonly drunk alongside a dessert. You can even buy cheap wines flavoured with salt and pepper that are used for cooking. Madeira's islands have a long history of wine production, which dates back to the Age of Exploration when Madeira was a standard port of call for ships heading to the New World or East Indies. Neutral

grape spirits were added to the wine to preserve it on long journeys. During voyages at sea, the wine would get warm, and be moved and shaken, this significantly changed the wine's flavour and wine producers in Madeira decided they liked the new taste. Today, the wine is exposed to heat of up to 60°C deliberately and this causes the wine to oxidize. The result is a full-flavoured wine that lasts for a long time, even After being opened.



Green food

On 17 March it's St. Patrick's Day, and the Irish will be celebrating¹ by colouring² everything green! That means not only green clothes, but also green food. Food dye³ is often⁴ used to turn even Guinness green, and of course, real green foods should be eaten on this day too.

- Get some edible green food colouring and use it with food and drinks for a fun St. Paddy's Day.
- Start the day by giving your kids a glass of green milk with their breakfast. Or, drop some food colouring in a clear citrus carbonated⁵ drink, such as lemonade, to make a fun, fizzy⁶, green beverage⁷. If it tastes bad, add lime juice and sugar.
- Impress your Irish friends by serving pasta with green pesto sauce. Or serve chicken with green gravy⁸ and green mashed potatoes⁹ and green vegetables.
- If you like to bake bread, then you can add green colouring to the dough¹⁰ before you put it in the oven.
- Desserts can be topped¹¹ with green whipped¹² cream and sprigs¹³ of green mint, and homemade biscuits and cakes can easily be turned green.
- It looks revolting¹⁴, but your Irish pals¹⁵ will be mightily¹⁶ impressed!



Irish drinks



St. Paddy's Girl

Mix these ingredients in a blender¹⁷: Shots of:

- Bailey's Irish Cream
- Irish whiskey
- Kahlua or other coffee liqueur
- Espresso

Mix until smooth and creamy. Pour into a margarita glass. Add chocolate curls¹⁸ or a sprinkle¹⁹ of cinnamon on top.

The perfect drink for a St. Paddy's party.

Irish Mint Kiss

Ingredients:

- 2 parts Bailey's Irish Cream
- 1 part cream
- Splash of crème de menthe
- Chocolate syrup

Fill a cocktail shaker²⁰ two thirds full with ice and add everything except the chocolate syrup. Shake together well until chilled, for at least 30 seconds. Strain²¹ into a Martini glass. Decorate the top by drizzling²² with chocolate syrup.

Everyone knows the Irish like to drink, but they do at least make time to toast²³ each other first. Here's are some popular toasts:

Beannachtam na Feile Padraig!

(Irish language).
Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Sláinte!

(Irish language). To your health!

May you work like you don't need the money,
Love like you've never been hurt,
Dance like no one is watching,
And drink like a true Irishman.
Drink up!

Saint Patrick was a gentleman,
Who through strategy and stealth²⁴,
Drove²⁵ all the snakes from Ireland,
Here's a toasting to his health.
But not too many toasting,
Lest²⁶ you lose yourself and then,
Forget the good Saint Patrick
And see all those snakes again.

Toasting



Potatoes



Potatoes are a hugely²⁷ important food in Ireland, although no one knows exactly how the potatoes arrived there. However, once they did, it grew easily and helped to feed the population.

In the 1500s Irish nobles fought each other and the English, who were trying to conquer Ireland, and consequently, peasants²⁸ found it difficult to grow food because of the constant war. Around the 1600s the potato arrived and by the 1800s it was the staple²⁹ food of the poor.

The population was thriving³⁰, when suddenly a disease³¹ attacked potato crops³² and the people began to run short³³ of food. This period was known as The Great Famine³⁴, or The Potato Famine and about 1,100,000 people died of famine-related causes. Approximately 1,500,000 emigrated from Ireland, moving mostly to English-speaking countries. Even greater numbers travelled to the United States.

March is also the month when Easter occurs. All over the UK, children will be eating Easter eggs made of chocolate, brought by the Easter Bunny! Although traditionally Easter is a religious event, most of today's children in Britain associate it with chocolate!



Glossary

1 to celebrate celebrar

2 to colour dar color

3 dye colorante

4 often muchas veces

5 carbonated gaseoso

6 fizzy gaseoso

7 beverage bebida

8 gravy salsa elaborada con jugo de la carne asada

9 mashed potatoes puré de patatas

10 dough masa

11 to top coronar

12 to whip batir

13 sprig ramita

14 revolting repugnante

15 pals amigos

16 mightily fuertemente

17 blender licuadora

18 curls rizos

19 sprinkle espolvorear

20 cocktail shaker coctelera

21 to strain escurrir

22 to drizzle lloviznar

23 to toast brindar

24 stealth cautela

25 to drive (something away) empujar

26 lest para que no

27 hugely enormemente

28 peasants campesinos

29 staple (diet) dieta básica

30 to thrive prosperar

31 disease enfermedad

32 crops cultivos

33 to run short (of something) hacer corto de algo

34 famine hambruna

Sony's 3D experience

Sony will be the first manufacturer in Europe to showcase¹ the 3D home experience to consumers in its flagship² SonyStyle stores. Customers can see the next generation of 3D home entertainment first-hand³, viewing demonstrations of music, movies, games, football and television programming in stunning⁴ High Definition 3D. The 3D products include BRAVIA TVs, PlayStation 3 game consoles, Blu-ray disc players, VAIO notebook computers and Cyber-shot digital still cameras.

In addition to Playstation games in 3D, Sony will also exclusively film major sporting events in 3D (e.g. FIFA World Cup 2010, Sony Open PGA Golf tournament), which will be made available⁵ to consumers through various channels. Last but not least⁶, the availability of 3D-ready Blu-ray players will herald⁷ the arrival of many new 3D films on high definition Blu-ray disc, coinciding⁸ with the launch of 3D-compatible BRAVIA TVs in the summer. In Spain the 3D experience is available in stores in Madrid (Serrano, 12) and Barcelona (Rambla Cataluña, 121).

Visit your nearest Sony store for 3D product details.



High-resolution video for your car

This spring Sony is introducing two new in-car multimedia AV receivers, the Xplod™ XAV-70BT and XAV-60.

These devices have a 7" and 6.1" widescreen WVGA touch screens. The ultra-bright⁹ WVGA offers high-resolution pictures of 800 x 480 pixels, a resolution five times higher than mainstream¹⁰ QVGA AV centre displays. Both models feature a CD/DVD/VCD player that supports MP3/AAC/WMA audio files, DivX/MPEG-1/MPEG-2/MPEG-4 (Simple Profile) video files and JPEG picture files. They also sport¹¹ a full-speed USB port, which gives you the convenience and freedom¹² to connect with almost any digital music player whether it's an iPod, iPhone, WALKMAN® or a USB memory drive. When connected to an iPod/iPhone, you can search by artist, album or song title directly on the display¹³.

The layout¹⁴ of the playback screen is simple showing a large album artwork¹⁵ image with the name of song, album and artist – no need¹⁶ for a busy¹⁷ screen while driving¹⁸ and enjoying¹⁹ the music. At a touch of the screen, virtual buttons²⁰ pop up for functions such as skip²¹, shuffle²², pause, etc. You can also change the track or album by simply sliding²³ your finger across the screen to the right, left, up or down.

Making your music selection even easier are the ZAPPIN™ and SensMe™ features exclusively from Sony. Sometimes you may²⁴ not be sure²⁵ of what you want to listen to.

One touch of the "ZAP" button begins scanning and playing highlight clips of your music collection so you can catch the song that feels just right.

You can also organize your music into 'moods'²⁶.

Price and where to buy: Online at www.sony.com XAV-70BT around €520 and XAV-60 around €382



The Peregrine Glove²⁷



This futuristic glove is like the one worn²⁸ by Tom Cruise in the movie *Minority Report*. It allows the user to control computer games by touching the computer screen and looks as though it belongs in the space age!

The glove has more than 30 Touch Point Actions, 18 Touch Points and three Activator Pads, which allow for over 30 user-programmable actions. By simply touching your fingertips²⁹ with your thumb you can control your game faster than ever before. Easy-to-use software allows users to create almost any custom configuration imaginable!

The micro-wound custom Touch Points were designed to be robust³⁰ enough for military use. So go ahead and play hard, they can take it³¹.

Easy-to-use software allows you to calibrate The Peregrine to your hand size³². You can also redefine Touch Point locations for the ultimate in accuracy³³ and make the glove respond the way you want.

Price and where to buy: Online at www.theperegrine.com for \$129.99 (€90).

Apple launches iPad

Apple's iPad is a revolutionary device for browsing the web, reading and sending email, enjoying photos, watching videos, listening to music, playing games, reading e-books and much more. iPad's responsive high-resolution Multi-Touch display lets users physically interact with applications and content. iPad is just 0.5 inches (1.3cm) thick and weighs just 1.5 pounds (68g). iPad includes 12 new innovative apps designed especially for the iPad, and will run almost all of the 140,000 plus apps in the App Store. Every app works in both portrait and landscape, automatically animating between views as the user rotates³⁴ iPad in any direction. Import photos from a Mac, PC or digital camera, see them organized as albums, and enjoy them using iPad's elegant slideshows. Watch movies, TV shows and YouTube, all in HD or flip³⁵ through pages of an e-book you downloaded from Apple's new iBookstore while listening to your music collection.

Price and where to buy: iPad will be available in late March from \$499. See www.apple.com for information on how to order.



Glossary

1 to showcase exponer

2 flagship insignia

3 first-hand primera mano

4 stunning impresionante

5 available disponible

6 last but not least por último, pero no menos importante

7 herald anunciar

8 to coincide coincidir

9 ultra-bright ultra brillante

10 mainstream corriente dominante

11 to sport mostrar

12 freedom libertad

13 display visor

14 layout diseño

15 artwork obra de arte/ diseño

16 no need no es necesario

17 busy (display) desordenado

18 to drive conducir

19 to enjoy disfrutar

20 button botón

21 skip saltar

22 shuffle barajar

23 slide deslizar

24 may puede

25 to be sure estar seguro

26 mood modo/humor

27 glove guante

28 to wear llevar consigo

29 fingertips yemas de los dedos

30 robust robusto/fuerte

31 take it tomarlo

32 size tamaño

33 accuracy exactitud

34 to rotate girar

35 to flip hojear

Alexander Technique: Break the inertia

By Eva Carnero

Our body talks to us constantly, giving us advice to stop and to get rid of¹ bad habits that we've picked up². The Alexander Technique shows you how to actually do it.



The Alexander Technique can gradually change the movement patterns of your whole body.

Anyone of any age who is interested in improving their bodies' abilities will find that the Alexander Technique is ideal. According to Eduardo Tilve, a professor of the Technique for many years (www.t-alexander.com): "The Alexander Technique is a form of experimental learning³, not a therapy. It's a method to learn how to put your body to optimal use while doing any activity. Consciously or not, the way we use our body affects how it functions. Because it's treated like a learning process and not like therapy, the Alexander Technique is always recommended. The only thing is that you don't get quick results."

Professor Belén Cobos, who for years has been giving classes in Valencia, says that "there are a large number of professionals who are interested in the Alexander Technique in order to improve the way they carry out⁴ their work: actors, musicians, singers, dancers and sportsmen and women all choose⁵ the method to compliment their training and as a professional requirement⁶, although it also enriches the lives of people from other professions." As it is treated as a learning experience, the method requires that the student participates in various sessions. "My experience tells me," says Tilve, "that it's best to do a minimum of 20 sessions."

SENSORY EXPERIENCE

"Generally the sessions are individual," explains Tilve, "and usually last between 30 to 45 minutes. Within the class, the teacher gives verbal instructions, but mostly uses his or her hands in order to detect harmful⁷

tension and tries to take the student through the experience of using the body in a way that is adapted⁸ to very gentle movements. The repetition of these new experiences leaves the students able to apply the activities in their daily lives⁹."

There are also sessions for groups. "These courses are an introduction,

In order to do the exercises you don't need to be extremely supple.

and within them the students learn the basic principles of the technique," explains Tilve. "And they learn to evaluate their own sensory perceptions and how to be aware of their habits, which is essential for re-education. But the true work requires attention to the individual."

In order to do the exercises you don't need to be extremely supple¹⁰. According to Tilve: "You start working with gentle¹¹ movements and positions, such as how to sit down and get up out of a chair, how to walk, cross your arms¹² or legs – which are basics for all activities. We don't use special apparatus. Through the experience and through observation you learn coordination, where tension begins and how to prevent it and to relax. With practice, you can use this ability for more complex tasks¹³ and all kinds of situations in your daily life."

FORGET PATTERNS¹⁴

The Alexander Technique can gradually¹⁵ change the movement patterns of your body. Unfortunately¹⁶, we can't vary these patterns ourselves, as they are so deeply rooted¹⁷ that we don't notice them. Because of this it's essential to have a teacher to guide you if you want to make lasting and important changes. ●

Benefits of the Alexander Technique

Belén Cobos' students have talked about their experiences after having been assisted through a few sessions of the Alexander Technique.

Relax. "You feel relaxed and awake¹⁸ at the same time."

Good mood. "Now not so many things affect me, I get angry¹⁹ less often."

Security. "It increases self-control and makes you feel more secure in your daily life."

Tolerance. "It helps me to rest all I can."

Sensitivity. "I'm more sensitive to messages from my body. Now I'm not comfortable if I spend hours on the sofa."

Vitality. "Now I don't get bored while I'm waiting for the bus: I think about my direction and tire less when I'm on my feet."

Patience. "The other students don't make me so nervous in class any more, and when I want them to listen to me, instead of yelling²⁰ I stop and put the Alexander Technique into practice. They calm down quicker than when I try to get their attention by shouting at them."

Glossary

1 to get rid of dejar/parar

2 to pick up (acquire) adquirir

3 experimental learning
aprendizaje vivencial

4 to carry out (to do something)
desempeñar

5 to choose elegir

6 requirement requisito

7 harmful perjudiciales

8 to adapt adecuar

9 daily life vida cotidiana

10 supple flexible

11 gentle suave

12 to cross the arms cruzar los brazos

13 tasks tareas

14 patterns patrones

15 gradually paulatinamente

16 unfortunately desgraciadamente

17 rooted enraizado

18 awake despierto

19 angry enfadado

20 to yell gritar

Spotlight

Brothers (*Hermanos*)

Director: Jim Sheridan
Cast: Jake Gyllenhaal, Natalie Portman, Tobey Maguire
Genre: Drama
Original Language: English
Release date in Spain: 5 March

Director Jim Sheridan's latest movie is the powerful story of two brothers – Sam Cahill (Tobey Maguire) and the younger Tommy (Jake Gyllenhaal), who are very different in character. In a nutshell, Sam is good – a family man and army captain who goes to serve in Afghanistan, and Tommy is bad – just out of prison after committing an armed robbery. When Sam's helicopter is shot down, and everyone thinks he's dead, Tommy tries to take on² his role and care for his brother's wife and child. However, Sam returns home unexpectedly, and becomes suspicious of the relationship between his brother and his wife, and with roles reversed family tensions begin to erupt.

This central theme of this film is the relationship between Tommy and Sam's wife (Natalie Portman). Sam's reaction to it, and the form he believes it takes, creates the real dynamism

and drama. There are many surprises such as when everyone thinks Sam is dead. Then Tommy tries to help around the house, but is clumsy³ and awkward⁴. Sam's experiences with the Taliban are so harrowing⁵ they are almost impossible to live with, and he returns from service a changed man. In his absence, Portman gives more attention to their children.

Sheridan and screenwriter David Benioff make this much more than an average love and war movie. Portman is mature and touching⁶, and Maguire gives an excellent performance. The film talks about the themes of guilt⁷, happiness, forgiveness⁸, and how our actions and reactions can condemn or save us. It's an almost faultless⁹ work, and maintains the director's strong track record¹⁰, which includes *In America* and *In the Name of the Father*.



movie reviews

Dorian Gray (*El Retrato de Dorian Gray*)

Director: Oliver Parker. **Cast:** Ben Barnes, Colin Firth, Rebecca Hall, Ben Chaplin. **Genre:** Mystery / Horror / Drama. **Original language:** English. **Release date in Spain:** 12 March.



Dorian Gray is based on Oscar Wilde's 1891 novel, about a naïve¹¹ young man (Dorian, played by Ben Barnes) who is introduced to the decadent pleasures of Victorian London after catching the eye¹² of the charismatic Lord Henry Wotton (Colin Firth). Henry's friend, society artist Basil Hallward (Ben Chaplin), paints a portrait of Dorian to capture his stunning¹³ looks, and when Dorian sees it he says that he would give anything, even his soul¹⁴, to stay as he is in the picture. An invisible devil immediately makes a bargain¹⁵ with him: he will maintain his beauty, but the picture will decay¹⁶. Dorian continues his wild adventures, which include brothels¹⁷, opium dens¹⁸, and ultimately murder, but his pact means immortality instead of humanity, and the portrait doesn't just age, it putrefies¹⁹, and haunts its subject.

There are many good aspects in this latest adaptation – the screenplay has some new plot inventions and characters, and Colin Firth gives a wonderful performance, although he has most of the best lines to help him. The sets are engaging²⁰, with plush²¹ interiors. Ben Barnes, in the lead role, isn't compelling or anguished²² enough to make us care about him or his journey. There is also a lack of²³ intensity, as the decadence is shown in a very restricted way. The novel has a reputation for being difficult to put on film, and while this version doesn't always succeed²⁴, it is ambitious and enjoyable.

The Boys are Back (*Sólo Ellos*)

Director: Scott Hicks. **Cast:** Clive Owen, Laura Fraser, George MacKay. **Genre:** Drama. **Original language:** English. **Release date in Spain:** 19 March.



Clive Owen plays Joe Warr, a sports writer, whose world falls apart²⁵ when his wife dies suddenly, and he's left to bring up²⁶ his six-year old son alone. Not only does he have to deal with his own grief²⁷ and adapt to life as a single parent, but eventually also take care of a teenage son from a previous marriage who comes to stay. Joe's reaction to all of this is to create an environment where 'yes' is the answer to every question. There are no rules, and life is reckless²⁸, instinctive, and anarchistic. In this unusual form of parental philosophy, inevitably disaster is never far away.

Based on a true story by Simon Carr, the film is set in a beautiful Australia of long beaches and golden meadows²⁹, with Owen taking a more subdued³⁰ role than the masculine, heroic characters with which audiences are familiar. Some of the devices employed to tell the story, such as voice overs³¹ and an apparition of his deceased wife to give him advice, are melodramatic, but the script and cinematography keep the attention on the central relationship between father and children. The 'yes' rule creates plenty of dramatic and dangerous moments, but these are contrasted with quieter, intimate ones.

A thoughtful and emotional film, with a powerful performance from Clive Owen.

new releases in spain

5 March >

Alice in Wonderland (Alicia en el País de las Maravillas)

Director: Tim Burton
Cast: Mia Wasikowska, Michael Sheen, Johnny Depp
Genre: Fantasy/Animation
Original Language: English



12 March >



Le Concert (El Concierto)

Director: Radu Mihaileanu
Cast: Aleksei Guskov, Mélanie Laurent, Dmitri Nazarov
Genre: Comedy / Music
Original Language: French

The Book of Eli (El libro de Eli)

Director: Albert and Allen Hughes
Cast: Denzel Washington, Gary Oldman, Michael Gambon
Genre: Science Fiction
Original Language: English



Cop Out

Director: Kevin Smith
Cast: Bruce Willis, Tracy Morgan, Michelle Trachtenberg
Genre: Comedy / Police
Original Language: English

19 March >



Las Viudas de los Jueves

Director: Marcelo Piñeyro
Cast: Ernesto Alterio, Juan Diego Botto, Leonardo Sbaraglia
Genre: Thriller
Original Language: Spanish

Remember Me (Recuérdame)

Director: Allen Coulter
Cast: Robert Pattinson, Emile de Ravin, Chris Cooper
Genre: Drama / Romance
Original Language: English

The Green Zone (AKA Imperial Life in the Emerald City) (Green Zone: Distrito protegido)

Director: Paul Greengrass
Cast: Matt Damon, Jason Isaacs, Greg Kinnear
Genre: War / Drama
Original Language: English

26 March >

Hot Tub Time Machine

Director: Steve Pink
Cast: John Cusack, Lizzy Caplan, Crispin Glover
Genre: Science Fiction / Comedy
Original Language: English

Extraordinary Measures (Medidas extraordinarias)

Director: Tom Vaughan
Cast: Harrison Ford, Brendan Fraser, Keri Russell
Genre: Drama
Original Language: English



How to Train your Dragon (Cómo entrenar a tu dragón)

Director: Peter Hastings
Genre: Fantasy / Adventure / Animation
Original Language: English

Soul Kitchen

Director: Fatih Akin
Cast: Adam Bousdoukos, Moritz Bleibtreu, Birol Ünel
Genre: Comedy
Original Language: German

31 March >

Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang (La Niñera Mágica y el Big Bang)

Director: Susanna White
Cast: Emma Thompson, Maggie Gyllenhaal, Ralph Fiennes
Genre: Fantasy / Comedy
Original Language: English



Clash of the Titans (Furia de Titanes)

Director: Louis Leterrier
Cast: Sam Worthington, Alexa Davalos, Liam Neeson
Genre: Fantasy / Drama
Original Language: English

The Spy Next Door

Director: Brian Levant
Cast: Jackie Chan, Lucas Till, Amber Valletta
Genre: Comedy
Original Language: English

Glossary

1 in a nutshell en pocas palabras
2 to take on asumir
3 clumsy patoso
4 awkward torpe
5 harrowing terrible(experiencia)
6 touching conmovedor
7 guilt culpa
8 forgiveness perdón
9 faultless impecable
10 track record historial
11 naïve ingenuo

12 to catch someone's eye captar la atención
13 stunning imponente
14 soul alma
15 to make a bargain hacer un trato
16 to decay descomponerse
17 brothels burdeles
18 opium dens fumadero de opio
19 to putrefy pudrir
20 engaging atractivo
21 plush lujoso

22 anguished angustiado
23 lack of falta de
24 to succeed triunfar
25 to fall apart desmoronarse
26 to bring up criar
27 grief dolor (emoción)
28 reckless imprudente
29 meadows prados
30 subdued callado
31 voice overs voz en off
32 to engage llamar/enganchar



Hung

American gigolo

By Óscar del Pozo

He's lost his family, his job and his home. But nature has endowed¹ him with a beneficial member.

Although what most people want to know is: Will we see this gigantic appendage upon which the plot is based, or not?

"We are working on the series 'Hung'. It's about a man with a very big penis." For some time, the partnership formed by writers² Dmitry Lipkin and Colette Burson responded with this sentence³ when friends asked them about their newest project. Inevitably, this answer piques the curiosity and gives rise⁴ to further questions. And it's because of this starting point, that these two young writers (42 and 40) have half won⁵ the battle already.

The pilot episode of 'Hung', directed by Alexander Pane (one of the big names in American comedy, responsible for *Election*, *About Schmidt* and *Sideways*) premiered on HBO on 28 June 2009 and became the second-most watched series on the channel, after the vampire fantasy 'True Blood'. But those who are waiting for a new 'Californication' or 'Tell Me You Love Me' (other titles from HBO with explicit sex scenes), will be disappointed⁶. In 'Hung' there's less sex than you think... However, before we talk about the penis, we get to know its owner⁷.

The star⁸ of 'Hung' is Thomas Jane. The actor from *The Punisher* and *The Mist* brings to life a typical American who was popular at school, a promising athlete and who appeared destined for success, but has arrived at middle age with a grey life that's only turning⁹ black. His wife (Anne Heche) leaves him for a wealthy¹⁰ der-

However, before we speak about the penis, we get to know its owner.

matologist, his children go to live with her and, on top of that¹¹, his house burns down¹² and he has to sleep in a tent¹³. After sleeping with a woman from his self-help¹⁴ group (Amy Adams), he's convinced that the solution to getting out of the hole¹⁵ he's in is between his legs. And so, he initiates himself into the world of prostitution.

Sexual psychology

'Hung' has generally had good reviews¹⁶ in the USA, although most critics agree that the show isn't of the standard of most HBO



series such as 'The Sopranos', 'The Wire' or 'Six Feet Under'. Neither is it up to the standard of 'True Blood', the excellent 'Big Love' or the classic 'Entourage'. That said, Thomas Jane, like the great Amy Adams, one of the sisters of 'Happiness' from Todd Solondz, have been nominated for two Golden Globes in the categories of Best Comedy Actor and Best Supporting Actress, respectively.

According to Dmitry Lipkin: "One of the things that interested us the most was to confront masculine psychology with feminine psychology and talk about mid-life crisis." Perhaps that's why there are so few nudes in 'Hung', and perhaps that's why certain things are left to the viewer's¹⁷ imagination. Although what most people want to know is: Will we see this gigantic appendage upon which the plot is based, or not? Without wanting to give an answer, Lipkin says: "We have to take care, because we want to treat this issue in an imaginative and respectful way." Perhaps, as Paul Thomas Anderson waited until the last scene of *Boogie Nights* in order to show the penis that was so talked-about¹⁸ during the film, then the same could happen here. Or maybe not...

If we advance to the end of the first series (which is already completed; the second series begins in the summer), we see that 'Hung' is more dramatic and less frivolous than it seems. For starters, the main character is a loser¹⁹, mired²⁰ in depression and, because of that, with a completely non-sexual stature. And the context in which he lives is quite similar to many working-class²¹ men who, like him, face eviction, can't pay for their children or are renegotiating their mortgage. In that sense, 'Hung' talks about today's America, the America of the financial crisis. It is well known that during periods of recession, the public want escapism. People do not like being reminded of their problems after spending all day fighting against them. But the premise of 'Hung' ends up²² appealing²³ because its creators endow the hero a secret weapon, a power to help him deal with²⁴ the crisis.

Black humour

The series uses black humour to tell a story which is really quite depressing - a man struggling to survive a dire personal situation - but clever writing makes it all seem hilarious.

HUNG

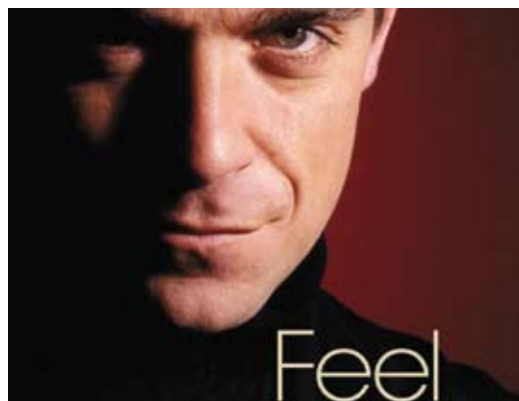


Glossary

- 1 to endow** dotar
- 2 writers** guionistas
- 3 sentence** frase
- 4 to give rise (to something/an event)** dar lugar
- 5 to win** ganar
- 6 to be disappointed** estar decepcionado
- 7 owner** propietario
- 8 star** protagonista
- 9 to turn** volver
- 10 wealthy** adinerado
- 11 on top of that** para colmo
- 12 to burn down** quemar
- 13 tent** tienda de campaña
- 14 self-help** auto-ayuda
- 15 hole** hoyo
- 16 reviews** críticas
- 17 viewer** espectador
- 18 talked-about** muy comentado
- 19 loser** perdedor
- 20 mired** sumido
- 21 working-class** trabajadores
- 22 to end up** acabar
- 23 to appeal** atraer
- 24 to deal with** afrontar

music&lyrics

Robbie Williams



We've seen Robbie grow from a boy to a man, on a personal level, and musically. Some critics said that his career was finished, but now, with the release of his latest album, everyone's talking about Robbie again – and for the right reasons!



Style and Influences

Robbie is a legend who emerged from the little-known town of Stoke-on-Trent in the UK and launched his musical career as a member of boy band Take That. Since then he has gone on to have a successful solo career, although it hasn't always been easy for the star and he has been seen battling drug and alcohol abuse and depression. Robbie's influences include The Pet Shop Boys and Depeche Mode. He has also collaborated with Kylie Minogue on 'Kids' and with Nicole Kidman on 'Something Stupid'.

Music

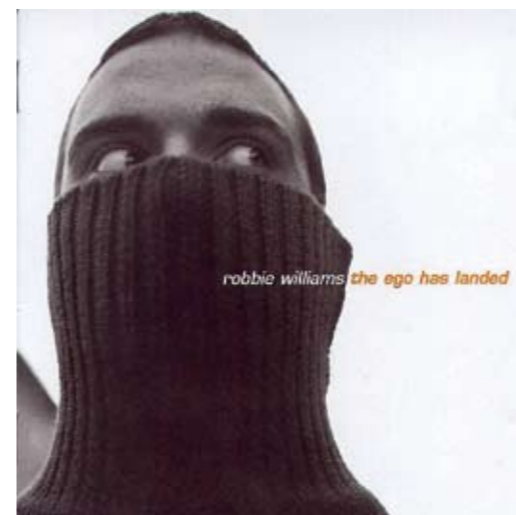
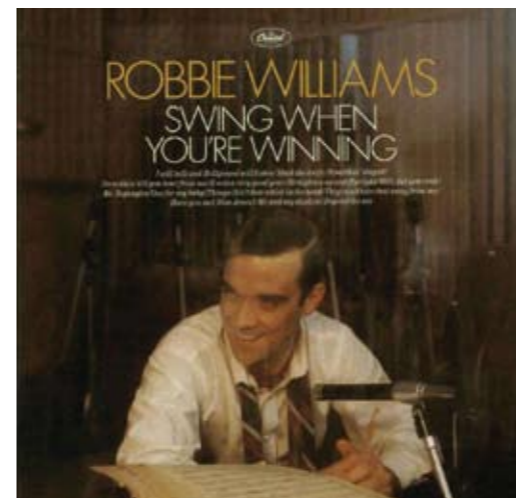
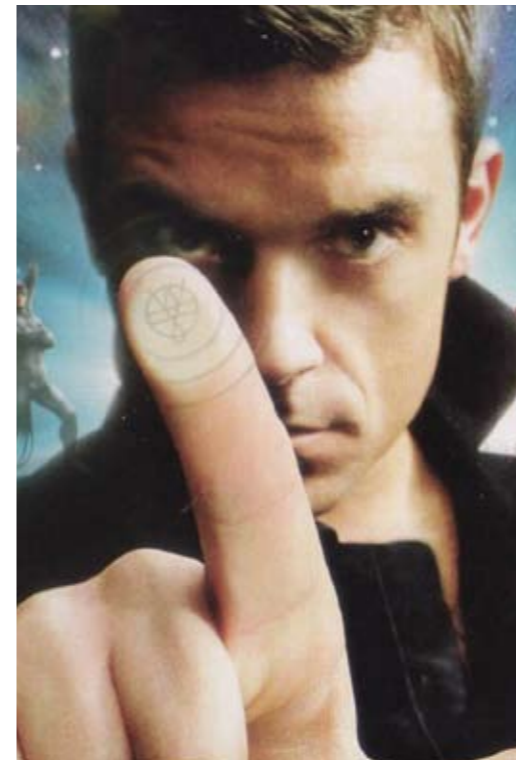
Robbie is certainly versatile and has written and performed music of all genres, from Pop rock, adult contemporary, Britpop, soft rock, dance-pop, to swing revival, dance-rock, traditional pop and hip hop. His newest album, *Reality Killed the Video Star* attempts to regain part of the audience he lost with the dance and electro album *Rudebox*, which was a departure from his normal music style and despite receiving good reviews from music magazines, ended up being Williams' lowest-selling album in the UK.

Awards

Robbie Williams is credited with winning more BRIT Awards than any other artist in the history of music. He has also won six Echo Awards: one each year from 2001 until 2007. His other awards are too numerous to mention, but they include an MTV European Music Award for Best Male Solo Artist, and this year he will receive another BRIT for Outstanding Contribution to Music.

Album Discography

1997 <i>Life thru a Lens</i>	2004 <i>Greatest Hits</i> (compilation album)
1998 <i>I've Been Expecting⁸ You</i>	2005 <i>Intensive Care</i>
1999 <i>The Ego Has Landed⁹</i> (compilation album)	2006 <i>Rudebox</i>
2000 <i>Sing When You're Winning</i>	2006 <i>The Best so Far</i> (compilation album)
2001 <i>Swing When You're Winning</i>	2009 <i>Songbook</i> (compilation album)
2002 <i>Escapology</i>	2009 <i>Reality Killed the Video Star</i>
2003 <i>Live at Knebworth/Live Summer</i>	2009 <i>Live from London EP</i> (digital download)



Did you know ?

As well as¹⁰ singing and writing songs, Robbie also plays the guitar, bass guitar, synthesizer, drums, piano, violin, harmonica and marimba.

Williams has supported his local Stoke-on-Trent football club, Port Vale, all his life. In February 2006 he bought £240,000 worth of shares in the club and thus¹¹ became the majority shareholder.

He appears in the list of the all-time Top 100 biggest-selling albums in the United Kingdom six times.

Since 2008 there have been rumours of a reunion with his former band Take That.



Glossary

- 1 **little-known** poco conocido
- 2 **to launch** lanzar
- 3 **to go on** continuar
- 4 **to regain** recuperar
- 5 **to end up** terminar
- 6 **lowest-selling** menos vendido
- 7 **outstanding** excepcional
- 8 **to expect** esperar
- 9 **to land** llegar
- 10 **as well as** además de
- 11 **thus** así
- 12 **sunshine** luz del sol
- 13 **lifeline** línea de vida
- 14 **to feed** alimentar
- 15 **deity** deidad
- 16 **stranger** extraño

Bodies

Reality Killed the Video Star

God gave me the sunshine¹²,
Then showed me my lifeline¹³,
I was told it was all mine,
Then I got laid on a lay line,
What a day, what a day,
And your Jesus really died for me,
Then Jesus really tried for me,

UK and entropy,
I feel like it's **** in me,
Wanna feed¹⁴ off the energy,
Love living like a deity¹⁵,
What a day, one day,
And your Jesus really died for me,
I guess Jesus really tried for me,

Bodies in the Bodhi tree,
Bodies making chemistry,
Bodies on my family,
Bodies in the way of me,
Bodies in the cemetery,
And that's the way it's gonna be,

All we've ever wanted,
Is to look good naked,
Hope that someone can take it,
God save me rejection,
From my reflection,
I want perfection,

Praying for the rapture,
'Cause it's stranger¹⁶ getting stranger,
And everything's contagious,
It's the modern middle ages,
All day every day,
And if Jesus really died for me,
Then Jesus really tried for me,

Bodies in the Bodhi tree,
Bodies making chemistry,
Bodies on my family,
Bodies in the way of me,
Bodies in the cemetery,
And that's the way it's gonna be,

All we've ever wanted,
Is to look good naked,
Hope that someone can take it,
God save me rejection,
From my reflection,
I want perfection,

Bodies in the Bodhi tree,
Bodies making chemistry,
Bodies on my family,
Bodies in the way of me,
Bodies in the Bodhi tree,
Bodies making chemistry,
Bodies on my family,
Bodies in the way of me,
Bodies in the cemetery,
And that's the way it's gonna be,

All we've ever wanted,
Is to look good naked,
Hope that someone can take it,
So God save me rejection,
From my reflection,
I want perfection,

Jesus didn't die for you, what do you want?
(I want perfection)
Jesus didn't die for you, what are you on?
Oh Lord
(Jesus really died for you) Ohh
(Jesus really died for you)
(Jesus really died for you) Ohh

Written by Robbie Williams, Brandon Christy and Craig Russo.
Produced by Trevor Horn.

books

English Today reviews some new releases in English-language literature All books are available to order through www.amazon.co.uk

8th Confession By James Patterson

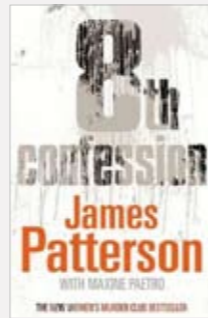
The Complete Book of Mothers-in-Law By Luisa Dillner

About Face By Donna Leon

Adventures on the High Teas: In Search of Middle England By Stuart Maconie

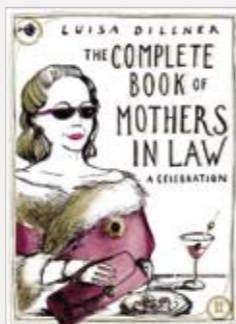
8th Confession By James Patterson

This is the eighth book in the Women's Murder Club series, and this time the story is about the murder of four high-profile people – a software tycoon¹, a fashion designer, a rock star and an heiress². All of the murders take place in mysterious circumstances. A detective, Lindsay Boxer, investigates the deaths. While these victims get a lot of media attention, few people are interested when a homeless man, by the curious name of Bagman Jesus, is found brutally executed³. Bagman had fallen on hard times⁴, but was loved by most of the down-and-out⁵ community. A local reporter, Cindy Thomas, is intrigued by his story and attempts to discover any dark secrets herself. Both Lindsay and Cindy are members of the Women's Murder Club, and need help from other members to solve the unusual cases. In this adventure, the identity and motives of the murderer of the famous people are revealed a little too early in the story, and this diminishes⁶ some of the suspense. There are a large number of sub-plots too, and some romance, which occasionally distract from the main theme, and the Murder Club members don't interact as well as the earlier books. Overall⁷, this tale may not be as strong as the previous ones but nevertheless there are sufficient elements, including a unique killing method, to make it an enjoyable read.



The Complete Book of Mothers-in-Law By Luisa Dillner

In the UK, and no doubt in Spain too, mothers-in-law are often the butt⁸ of jokes. They are frequently compared to dragons or monsters, and their characteristics are seen as being dominating, interfering⁹ or sometimes ferocious¹⁰! But is there any truth in this stereotype? This book looks at the history, traditions, legends and tales associated with mothers-in-law, from ancient to modern times, and refers to the many fictional, contemporary, and historical women who have held the title, always out of consequence rather than choice. Surprisingly, the book finds a huge variety of different types, not all corresponding to the well-known image that most of us maintain. Some are loveable, some loyal¹¹, some hilarious¹² and some are just mad. Luisa Dillner's research doesn't leave a stone unturned¹³. There are anecdotes too about the rich and famous, including a very amusing tale about Marilyn Monroe's first meeting with her mother-in-law. Princess Diana and Queen Victoria also come under scrutiny¹⁴, and even writers Edgar Allan Poe and Virginia Woolf recorded interesting family tension.

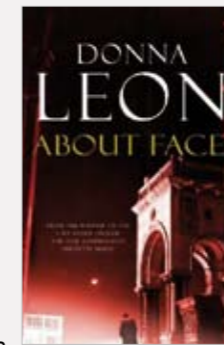


The book is more than just a light-hearted¹⁵ overview. With its content covering different cultures, countries, and time periods, it's enlightening¹⁶ and entertaining, and culminates with some very shrewd¹⁷ advice about how to improve your own relationship with your mother-in-law, which is much more constructive than just hiding behind the sofa or not answering the door when she calls.

engrossing²⁵ style. The book creates depth for the characters by mixing the excitement of crime with personal troubles, particularly for Brunetti, as he reflects on his feelings towards his father-in-law, home cooking, and family disagreements. The climax is a tense affair, and will no doubt leave you wanting to read the previous 17 Brunetti novels.

About Face By Donna Leon

Donna Leon is an American writer who lives in Venice, and is the author of a hugely popular series of detective stories about Guido Brunetti, a Venetian police commissioner. In her latest tale concerning the Venetian underworld, Brunetti meets, and is charmed¹⁸ by, Franca Marinello, despite her appearance – the result of some disastrous plastic surgery¹⁹. Her husband is a prosperous Venetian businessman. Brunetti assists in an investigation into the Mafia, which is initiated by the murder²⁰ of an informant. Within a short time, the policeman who brought the case to Brunetti's attention also meets with a tragic end. The attractive Marinello proves to be at the centre of the events. What develops²¹ is a tale about business opportunities in the East, corruption in Italy, the hidden fortune in refuse collection²² and the reality of gambling. Donna Leon sews²³ all of these topics together seamlessly²⁴, as well as giving the intricate details of Venetian life and police procedure. This isn't just a picture of tourist Venice, but industrial, ugly Venice too. It's another intriguing Brunetti story, with the author continuing her light yet



Adventures on the High Teas: In Search of Middle England

By Stuart Maconie

Stuart Maconie is a journalist, writer, and TV and radio presenter in the UK. This is the story of his journey to find, and define, 'Middle England'. This term is popular in the UK, but its definition is vague²⁶. Does it mean tradition, represented by villages, country pubs and cricket, or does it mean closed minds²⁷ and an unwillingness²⁸ to accept new ideas? During his quirky²⁹ and humorous travelogue, he visits many small English towns, villages and areas. These are the links³⁰, to which a number of essays are added, dealing with 60s architecture, trains, geology, cocaine, good ice cream, and music, all from an English perspective. In style and humour Maconie has been compared to Bill Bryson. This would be an ideal book to learn about cultural references, and the way the English think about themselves, although some of the humour may be difficult to grasp³¹ for anyone who is not very familiar with the UK. In fact, the writer doesn't really discover the definition he is looking for, but he finds a lot of hospitality³² and charm, and ends up enjoying the people and places.



Glossary

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| 1 tycoon magnate | 13 (not) to leave a stone unturned no dejarse a nadie en el tintero | 24 seamlessly con fluidez |
| 2 heiress heredera | 14 scrutiny escrutinio | 25 engrossing fascinante |
| 3 to execute ejecutar | 15 light-hearted despreocupado | 26 vague vago |
| 4 hard times tiempos difíciles | 16 enlightening instructivo | 27 closed mind mentalidad cerrada |
| 5 down-and-out vagabundo | 17 shrewd astuto | 28 unwillingness desgana |
| 6 to diminish disminuir | 18 to charm encantar | 29 quirky raro |
| 7 overall en conjunto | 19 plastic surgery cirugía plástica | 30 links enlaces |
| 8 butt blanco | 20 murder asesinato | 31 to grasp comprender |
| 9 interfering e ntrometido | 21 to develop desarrollarse | 32 hospitality hospitalidad |
| 10 ferocious feroz | 22 refuse collection recogida de basura | |
| 11 loyal leal | 23 to sew hilar | |
| 12 hilarious graciosísimo | | |



Should've, Could've, Would've

Travel experiences are often learning experiences and later on we can look back at these and imagine doing or saying things differently. This month we will look at some ways you can talk about these hypothetical possibilities.

By Andréa Lomas

HERE'S WHAT HAPPENED

You are going to read two travel anecdotes from two people, Martin and Heather. After telling their stories, they will talk about what they could have, should have or would have done differently with their friends. While you read the anecdotes, pay attention to the sentences in **bold** as you will see *could have*, *should have* and *would have* phrases that refer to them in the conversations after the anecdotes.

MARTIN

"Last spring I travelled from Manchester to Barcelona on a business trip. I was only staying in Barcelona for two nights so I didn't pack a lot of things. The weather was cold so I **made sure I packed¹ warm clothes²**. My flight was very early in the morning and I decided to drive to the airport and leave my car in the parking lot³. I don't like waiting in airports so I left with **just enough⁴ time to arrive and check in**, but there had been an accident on the motorway so there was a traffic

jam⁵ and the journey took a lot longer than I had expected. When I arrived in Barcelona the temperature was at least 10 degrees warmer than in Manchester! I was so hot in my warm clothes and I didn't have time to go shopping for other things. Apart from that the trip went well, but when I returned to Manchester and collected my car I got a nasty⁶ surprise: I had parked my car in a restricted car park⁷ and so they fined⁸ me 150 pounds!"

Before looking at the conversation between Martin and his friend Scott,

look at the table below with the could/should/would guide.

So, now read Scott and Martin's conversation and use the could/should/would guide as a reference.

Scott: *I prefer to arrive with plenty of time⁹ before my flight. I **would have left** home a lot earlier.*

Martin: *Yeah, and I **shouldn't have driven**. I **should have got** the train. Then I **wouldn't have been fined*** 150 pounds!*

Scott: *I know. You **should have checked** that the parking space wasn't restricted before*

leaving your car for three days!

Martin: *I **won't make the same mistake next time**. It's a pity I didn't have time to get some cooler clothes in Barcelona. I **should have looked at** the weather forecast before going. I **could have taken** more appropriate¹⁰ clothes with me.*

*Note that this is a passive structure (be + past participle) which is why there are two past participles here, **been** and **fined**.

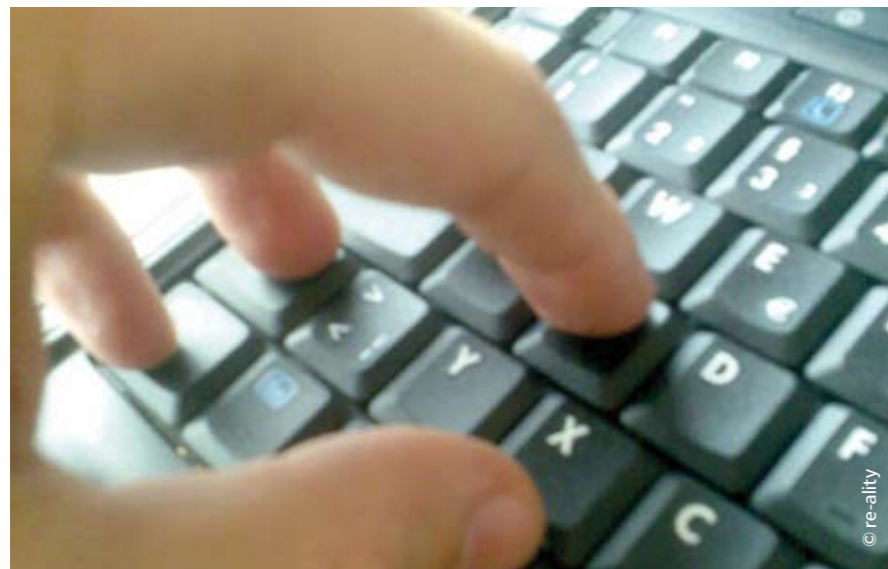
HEATHER

"I was staying in Spain for a few months working on an environmental project¹¹ and a friend and I decided to go on a camping trip to the north of Spain. We wanted a cheap holiday so we decided to camp¹² rather than¹³ stay in hostels or hotels, hitchhike¹⁴ rather than hire a car¹⁵ and do most of our cooking rather than eat in restaurants. Once we began our trip, we soon realized¹⁶ some of the mistakes we had made. Because we were hitchhiking we took big backpacks¹⁷ rather than suitcases, and we packed too much stuff¹⁸ into them – they were very heavy to carry! Sometimes we had to walk a long way with the packs on our backs. Many of the places we wanted to visit were out-of-the-way places¹⁹ so we needed lots of rides²⁰ – hitchhiking wasn't very efficient and made it more difficult for us to do exactly what we wanted. We soon got bored of eating camp food so we ate in restaurants more often than we had expected. On our second to last²¹ day we needed to travel a long way. It was possible to take a train but we had to walk several kilometres uphill²² to reach a town with a train station so we decided to go a different way and hitchhike. Unfortunately, we spent almost the whole day²³ just travelling because we had to wait a long time for rides. Despite²⁴ all these things, we had a great time!"

Now look at the conversation between Heather and her friend Julie. Use the could/should/would guide for reference

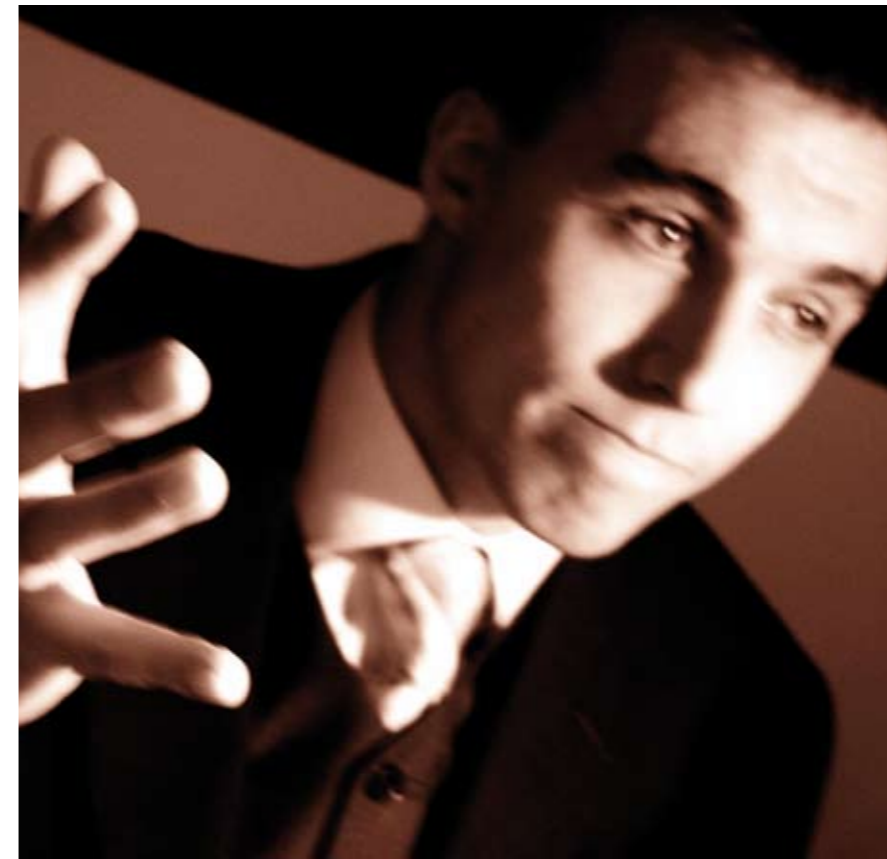
Julie: *So, do you think you **should have hired** a car?*

Heather: *Yes. We thought it would be too expensive, but after waiting for rides and*



© re-ality

COULD/SHOULD/WOULD (NOT) + HAVE + PAST PARTICIPLE	
could (not) have + past participle	= to talk about possibilities in the past that didn't happen
eg. <i>I could have got up earlier today but I was too tired. (It was possible for me to get up earlier but I didn't because I was tired.)</i>	
would (not) have + past participle	= to talk about hypothetical actions in the past that didn't happen
eg. <i>I would have gone to the meeting if I had known about it. (I didn't go to the meeting because I didn't know about it.)</i> eg. <i>I wouldn't have stayed in that hotel if I had known it was so far from the centre. (I stayed in that hotel because I didn't know it was so far from the city centre.)</i>	
should (not) have + past participle	= to talk about <i>good ideas</i> in the past that didn't happen and <i>bad ideas</i> in the past that did happen.
eg. <i>I should have got up earlier today because I had a meeting at 8 o'clock. (It was a good idea to get up earlier but I didn't.)</i> eg. <i>I shouldn't have got up so late today because I had a meeting at 8 o'clock. (It was a bad idea to get up late but I did it.)</i>	



paying for buses and everything, we probably **should have just hired** a car in the beginning – it **would have saved** a lot of time, so it **would have been** worth it²⁵.

Julie: *Maybe you **could have seen** more places if you had been able to leave your stuff in a car. Do you think you **should have stayed** in hostels too?*

Heather: *No, camping was good, but we **should have taken** less stuff. Our packs were big and heavy and we had to carry them everywhere. It's true that we **could have eaten** in restaurants less often.*

Julie: *And what happened on the second*

to last day?

Heather: *That was the worst! We spent the whole day hitchhiking. We **should have got caught a train** instead.*

Julie: *Yes, that was a pity. If you had taken a train, you **would have had** time to visit some other places.*

Making suggestions and giving advice
Not only does using could/should/would in this way allow you to talk about hypothetical situations and alternative possibilities, it also allows you to express your opinion about things and thus²⁷

make suggestions²⁸ and give advice²⁹. Before we finish, look at these last few examples.

A: What do you think I should have done?

B: I think you should have spoken in-person³⁰ rather than write an email.

A: I was really nervous and I didn't know if people could hear me.

B: You could have practised your speech with a colleague before you went to the conference.

A: I think next time I will organize a bigger room for the meeting.

B: Yes. If I were you, I would have looked at the different meeting rooms that were available first.

DOS (✓) AND DON'TS (✗)

✓ Always use 'have' and never 'has' with *should/could/would*.

✗ Use 'of' rather than 'have' in the grammar structure with *should, could* and *would*. •

TIPS!

When *would have* is used in this way it is very often seen as part of the third conditional structure. Remember, the third conditional is if + past perfect + would (not) + have + past participle. For example: *If she had booked the flight in advance²⁶, she would have paid a lot less for it.*

Glossary	1 to pack a bag/suitcase hacer una maleta	12 to camp acampar	22 uphill cuesta arriba
	2 warm clothes ropa que abriga	13 rather than en vez de	23 whole day todo el día
	3 parking lot parking	14 to hitchhike hacer autostop	24 despite a pesar de
	4 enough suficiente	15 to hire a car alquilar un coche	25 to be worth it valer la pena
	5 traffic jam retención de tráfico	16 to realize darse cuenta	26 in advance por adelantado
	6 nasty desagradable	17 backpack mochila	27 thus por lo tanto
	7 car park plaza de parking	18 stuff cosas	28 suggestion sugerencia
	8 to fine multar	19 out-of-the-way place lugar alejado de la civilización	29 to give advice dar consejos
	9 plenty of time mucho tiempo	20 to give someone a ride llevar a alguien (en el coche o la moto, por ejemplo)	30 in-person cara a cara
	10 appropriate adecuado		
	11 environmental project proyecto medio ambiental		
		21 second to last penúltimo	

Pronouns

By Tony Keirle

Reflexive is an adjective. It means reflecting back on the subject, like a mirror. We use a reflexive pronoun when we want to refer back to the subject of the sentence or clause.

✓ Reflexive pronouns

- Single reflexive pronouns end in “-self”
- Plural reflexive pronouns end in “-selves”

There are eight reflexive pronouns:

	reflexive pronoun		reflexive pronoun
singular	myself yourself himself, herself, itself	plural	ourselves yourselves themselves

Look at these examples:

	reflexive pronouns
<i>The <u>underlined</u> words are NOT the same person/thing</i>	<i>The <u>underlined</u> words are the SAME person/thing</i>
Steve glanced at <u>me</u> .	I glanced at <u>myself</u> in the mirror.
You embarrassed <u>me</u> in the shop.	You embarrassed <u>yourself</u> in the shop.
Peter invited <u>him</u> to the party.	John invited <u>himself</u> to the party.
David was angry with <u>her</u> .	Mary was angry with <u>herself</u> .
My cat scratched the <u>chair</u> .	My cat scratched <u>itself</u> .
We blame the government.	We blame <u>ourselves</u> .
Can you help <u>my</u> family?	Can you help <u>yourselves</u> to coffee?
They cannot look after the <u>business</u> .	They cannot look after <u>themselves</u> .

✓ Reciprocal pronouns

Reciprocal is an adjective which means that something is given or done in return.

It expresses a mutual action.

We use reciprocal pronouns when two or more subjects are acting in the same way towards the other.

For example, A is laughing at B, and B is laughing at A.

The action is reciprocal. So we say: A and B are laughing at **each other**.

- Bill is looking at Mary and Mary is looking at Bill. They are looking at each other.
- I gave you a present and you gave me a present. We gave each other presents.
- The soldiers were fighting the rebels and the rebels were fighting the soldiers. They were fighting one another.

There are only two reciprocal pronouns, and they are both two words:

- **each other**
- **one another**

When we use these reciprocal pronouns:

- there must be **two or more** people, things or groups involved (so we cannot use reciprocal pronouns with I, you [singular], he/she/it)
- they must be **doing the same thing**
- in general we use **each other** more often than **one another**, which sounds a little formal. Also, some people say that we should use **one another** only for three or more people or things though this is not a clearly defined rule.

Look at these examples:

- Jeff and Liz are going out with **each other**.
- Peter and David hate **each other**.
- The survivors were comforting **one another**.
- The teams played well against **each other**.
- We give **each other** gifts on our anniversary.
- Why don't you start seeing **each other**?
- They can't stand **each other**.
- The rival gangs were attacking **one another**.
- The images were merging with **each other** on the screen.

✓ Now it is time to practise.

Reflexive and reciprocal pronouns

Complete the sentences with a reflexive pronoun or a reciprocal pronoun.

1. John hurt **himself** when climbing the tree.
2. Peter and Sue helped _____ with their homework.
3. Don't punish _____. It wasn't your fault.
4. Wait for me while I make _____ look presentable.
5. My kitten is so cute when she looks at _____ in the mirror.
6. They had always wanted to build their dream home _____.
7. The twins were fighting with _____ so their mum sent them to bed.
8. Several groups were competing with _____ for the last word.
9. If we hadn't seen it _____ we would never have believed it.
10. My computer switches _____ off when it overheats.

Answers: 1. himself, 2. each other, 3. yourself, 4. myself, 5. herself, 6. themselves, 7. each other, 8. one another, 9. ourselves, 10. itself.

It's St. Patrick's Day on **17 March** and so there's no better time to learn a few Irish slang phrases. Here are a few below, along with an explanation of how to use them.



Patrick's Day

Beak - Food

"I'm crying out¹ for some beak here, lads. I've been running on² nothing but Guinness for days."

Clatty - Unclean

"I think you're a bit³ clatty."

Acting the maggot⁴ - Not behaving⁵ in a serious manner

"Stop acting like maggots, you fools."

Air biscuit - A fart⁶

"I just floated a serious air biscuit there, gents⁷. Run while you can."

Aul wan - Mother

"Will you ask yer⁸ aul wan to be quiet!"

Bag o' swag - Very good

"That dinner was a bag o' swag, love."

Ball - A large amount⁹ of something

"There's some huge ball of rain coming in."

Ballsch - Rubbish. Crap¹⁰.

"Daytime TV? Load of ballsch."

Banjaxed - A (generally irreversible) state of disrepair¹¹

"The car is banjaxed! It won't start¹²."

Benjy - An unpleasant odour

"Your sister's giving off¹³ some benjy Henry. Any danger¹⁴ of having a word¹⁵ with her?"

Bet - Alarming¹⁶ unattractive (as in 'bet (beat) with the ugly stick')

"Bet? Lads, I'm not exaggerating - she was so ugly I almost got sick."

Bettys - Women

"Did you see the gorgeous bettys on Grafton Street earlier?"

Bombay Shitehawk - General offensive insult

"Get out of bed, ya (you) Bombay shitehawk!"

Cacks - Underwear

"Oh no, I've shrunk¹⁷ me (my) cacks in the wash!"

Chubbed up - The act of having an erection

"I don't know about you, but after seeing Megan Fox in *Transformers* I was seriously chubbed up."

Cla - Brilliant

"Did ye (you) see that film on the telly¹⁸ last night? Twas (it was) feckin¹⁹ cla wa'nt (wasn't) it?"

Clatter - A punch²⁰

"I will give ye (you) a clatter in the jaw²¹!"

Craic - Mythical (generally alcohol related) Irish phenomenon - having fun

"Paddy's day in The George - should be good craic."

Creamed out of it - The act of being seriously injured, particularly when participating in a sporting event

"Mike got creamed out of it in that last rugby match."

Cute hoor - Someone who quietly has one up²² on everyone



© Iwona Kellie

"He's some cute hoor alright, didn't buy a pint all night and went home drunk!"

Da - Father

"Stop messing around²³ with that lightbulb, da."

Delph - Large teeth

"Some set of delph on that one there."

Doing a line - Having an affair²⁴

"I'm pretty sure they're doing a line alright. He had lipstick on his collar."

Eejit - Idiot

"You're an awful eejiet da."

Fair play - Commendable behaviour

"Did you see him box²⁵ Tubridy's jaw for him? Fair play."

Feck - Fuck (offensive)

"Feck! It's raining cats and dogs!²⁶"

Jacks - Toilet

"Jaysus, (Jesus) I really need to find the jacks."

Neddy - Fool

"That fella (fellow)²⁷ is a serious neddy."

Schnozzlewoppers - Cash

"Lend me a few schnozzlewoppers, I need to go shopping."

Scundered - Embarrassed²⁸

"I stood up to make a speech and didn't know what to say! I was scundered."

Shlunk - To leave a social engagement without telling anyone (often due to inebriation)

"He was up at the bar one minute and gone the next. Must have shlunked."

Sky pilot - General colourful insult

"On your bike²⁹, sky pilot!"

Young wan - A young lady

"Jaysus (Jesus), that young wan has fat arse³⁰!"

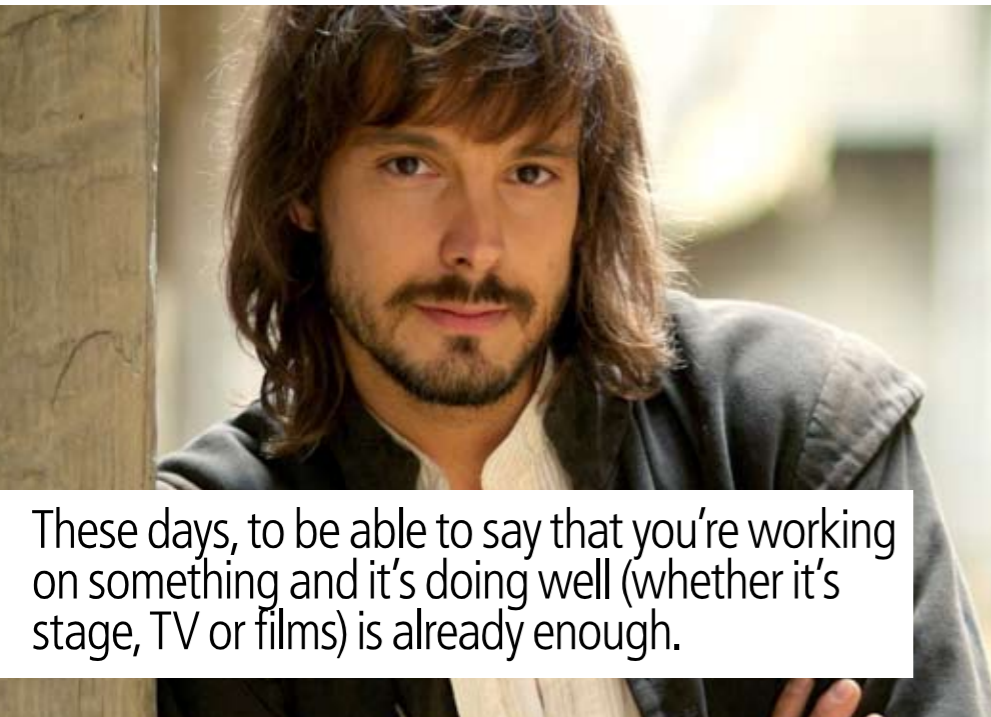
Glossary

- 1 to cry out (for something) gritar (por algo)
- 2 to run on funcionar
- 3 a bit un poco
- 4 maggot gusano
- 5 to behave comportarse
- 6 fart pedo
- 7 gents caballeros
- 8 yer ('your') tu
- 9 amount cantidad
- 10 crap basura
- 11 disrepair mal estado
- 12 to start (a car) arrancar
- 13 to give off emitir
- 14 any danger of hay peligro alguno (sacástico)
- 15 to have a word hablar con alguien
- 16 alarmingly alarmante
- 17 to shrink encoger
- 18 telly TV
- 19 feckin' ('fucking') jodido
- 20 punch puñetazo
- 21 jaw mandíbula
- 22 to have one up ser más listo
- 23 to mess around perder el tiempo
- 24 to have an affair tener una aventura amorosa
- 25 to box boxear
- 26 raining cats and dogs llover a cántaros
- 27 fellow compañero/chico
- 28 to be embarrassed tener vergüenza
- 29 on your bike! ¡lárgate!
- 30 arse culo



David Janer

Star of hit TV series 'Red Eagle' (águila roja)



These days, to be able to say that you're working on something and it's doing well (whether it's stage, TV or films) is already enough.

By Cristina Ros

How does it feel to play a hero?

More and more comfortable¹. The character has shaped² and evolved³ as the story has progressed. Without a doubt, his *leitmotiv* is the pursuit and application of justice.

'Red Eagle' takes place⁴ in the XVII century. Does history interest you?

I do like history, but more from earlier centuries. Above all, Greek and Roman classic history.

Your character seeks revenge. In this case, it's justified, isn't it?

Evidently, he thinks so. It's the energy that moves him through all his adventures. Before he lost his wife, Gonzalo lived in his own world, happy and oblivious⁵ to all the evils⁶ in his town. His wife's murder makes him wake up⁷ and pursue justice and, while⁸ he's searching⁹ for the assassins, he discovers that everything

around¹⁰ him is evil and corrupted. He soon decides to serve others¹¹ who suffer or have suffered what he has suffered: injustice.

Teacher by day and hero by night. What's it like playing two different characters?

Actually, the two characters are one. What happens is that Eagle has a more direct façade, more passionate (as far as his anonymity permits), and Gonzalo lives in comfort (as his public life requires¹²). Eagle is a man of action and Gonzalo a more contemplative man, more reflective. Therefore there's no added difficulty, other than the physical actions that Eagle has to perform, and we try to do them as best we can. That is helped by some wonderful specialists.

What's your relationship like with your fans? Do you like having them? Do they bother you¹³?

Actually, the fans I've found now from doing 'Red Eagle' are very different to those I had when I did 'Compañeros'. The teenage audience is usually much more spontaneous, open and ready for action (something which at times can be quite frightening¹⁴). But with 'Red Eagle' it's a much wider audience, who I find more familiar somehow, and much closer to me (and they give me more joy¹⁵ and less fright!).

Do you have any desire¹⁶ to get back on the theatre stage?

I'm not short¹⁷ on desire, but the problem is I don't have any projects. Prior to 'Red Eagle', a friend and I were going to do a play, but production circumstances delayed¹⁸ the idea. However, neither have I ever had a predilection (at least for the moment) for any particular medium. These days, to be able to say that you're working on something and it's doing well¹⁹ (whether it's stage, TV or films) is already enough.

Do you have any cinema projects?

At the moment, no. I hope that the series lasts²⁰ as long as I like. ●

Glossary

- 1 comfortable cómodo
- 2 to shape construir
- 3 to evolve evolucionar
- 4 to take place desarrollarse
- 5 oblivious ajeno
- 6 evils maldades
- 7 wake up despertar
- 8 while mientras
- 9 to search buscar
- 10 around (him) lo que le rodea
- 11 others los demás
- 12 to require obligar
- 13 to bother molestar
- 14 fright susto
- 15 joy alegría
- 16 desire ganas
- 17 not short on no falta
- 18 delay retrasar
- 19 to do well funcionar
- 20 to last durar

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